



BO TALES

Vol. 8, No. 3

The Newsletter of the Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc.

July/Aug/Sept 1999

"BO'S" CARVING TOOLS TRACED TO GERMANY (?)

By: Del "Slickrock" Romines



In September 1998 I received a package from a gentleman in Tennessee. The package contained several small tools that had been sold to him at a flea market in Alabama in mid 1991. From the description of the vender that was given by the gentleman, the vender almost had to be Willard "WC" Chisolm. Going on the assumption that it was "WC", the chances are that he is still alive and traveling the circuits. The Gentleman in Tennessee said he had not seen the vender in the past 3-4 years though.

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The Jungle Grapevine

Hello, everyone! Not too much to report this time around except to remind you that our V.P. and Elections Committee Chairman Ray Flanigan is looking for members who would like to step forward to run for a club office and the board. I'm stepping down as President after several years and it's time for some other folks to take over the reins.

This is YOUR club, and it's very true that the more active you become in it, the more fun and satisfaction you'll get out of it. It honestly doesn't take much time, so will you please give serious thought to running for an office or for a board seat? If you feel so inclined, and we truly hope you do, please contact Ray at:

Ray Flanigan
P.O. Box 62
Lincoln Park, NJ 07035
(973) 692-1671
E-mail: coinguy@erols.com

The auction (FUN Convention in Orlando on Sat. Jan. 8, 2000) is shaping up very nicely, with some high quality lots by both Bo and Bert. Be sure to be there, or, if you can't, send in your mail bids. Catalogs should be in your hands by early December.

Our new editor is still in need of articles for *BO TALES*.... please send something to him so others can enjoy your experiences in tracking down those elusive rascals. Any comments, criticisms and/or suggestions on how to improve OHNS are also always welcome - we want to ensure that we are one of the premier specialty clubs in numismatics, and with **YOUR help, we can do it!**

Until next time, keep the pot hot!!

Bill "Zemo" Fivaz
President, OHNS

Editor's Profile



Roman started collecting US coins by date as a child in the early 1960's, eagerly trying to fill his Whitman folders. Unfortunately pinball machines proved more exciting and a majority of the collection found its way into these machines. Roman renewed his interest in coins a few years ago after discovering the beauty of BUST half-dollars. His interest also moved to Hard Time Tokens and Conder tokens because of their fascinating history. Roman's interest in Hobo nickels started a couple of years ago when Dave "Willy" Wilson, a dealer (and long time OHNS member) at the Trenton Numismatic Society meetings displayed several Hobo nickels from his collection.

Roman has a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Pittsburgh and manages the remediation of Hazardous Waste sites in New Jersey. He is married and has two children.

PRESS RELEASE

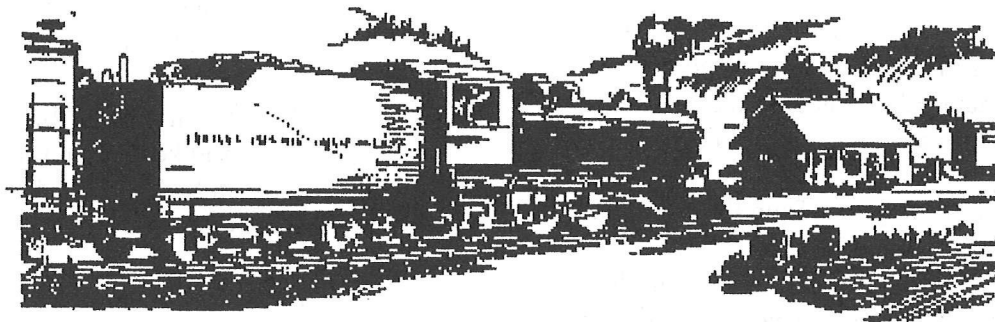
Bill Fivaz, President of the Original Hobo Nickel Society (OHNS) has announced that the 8th Annual OHNS auction of Hobo Nickels at their meeting at the next FUN Convention (Jan 2000) is shaping up very nicely. The auction will be held on Saturday, January 8th.

Fivaz says that this could be the best auction yet as many superb pieces have already been submitted, with over 25 lots being those of either "Bo" or "Bert", the two premier carvers of hobo nickels.

The floor and mail bidding is open to members only, and catalogues with photos and write-ups of each lot will be sent out to all members sometime in November or December.

Those interested in joining OHNS and bidding on the lots may contact either Bill Fivaz, P.O. Box 888660, Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660, or Gail Bo-ette" Baker Kraljevich, P.O. Box 38669 Colorado Springs, CO 80937. Dues are only \$10.00/yr., with reduced rates for extended membership. The organization's publication "BO TALES" is sent out 4 times a year.

The Hard Boiled Egg



The judge said Red was a hard-boiled egg;
And mebbly he was, at that.
He wasn't no dude in his corduroys
And his battered old felt hat.

They had found us asleep the night before
In a sandhouse down in the yards
And they told us that mebbly the judge would like
To give us his best regards.

So they lined us up with a couple more
Of the breed of box-car knights.
There wasn't a dime in the whole darned bunch;
They had us dead to rights.

"You're a hard-boiled egg and a dirty bum,"
The judge said, turning to Red.
"I ought to give you a month or two
On the rock pile over the way.

"But I won't, provided you hit the grit
Before the sun goes down.
That goes for you all," and he waved his hand.
"Clear out! Get away from town!"

So the four of us caught an eastbound freight
And we rode six hours or so,
Till we got kicked off at a water tank
When the sun was getting low.

We slept that night on the sun-baked sand
By the side of a pile of ties
And we never woke up till the desert sun
Beat down in our heavy eyes.

Then we tightened our belts and got a drink
And sat down there to wait
For a smudge of smoke on the desert rim
To tell of a coming freight.

One came at last, and we climbed aboard.
Dropped into an empty car,
Three of us armed with sagebrush clubs
And Red with an iron bar;

'Cause we hadn't eat for two whole days.
And hungry men are mean.
We meant to ride to Trinidad
Or bust some brakeman's bean.

Then we heard a whine; our eyes were drawn
To the thing that made the sound,
And there in the corner of the car
A half-grown pup we found.

He was tied with a wire around his neck
To one of the iron stays.
He was weak with hunger and gaunt with thirst.
He must have been there for days.

He had tugged in vain at his wire leash
Till his neck was torn and raw.
The flies were swarming about the sore
And he fought them off with his paw.

Then Red knelt down by the side of the pup
And loosened the bloody wire,
And swore the man who had tied it there
Deserved hell's hottest fire.

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Hardboiled Egg...

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He next climbed down the side of the car
 And climbed back up again,
 With a handful of waste from a journal-box
To ease the puppy's pain.

He squeezed the grease from the wad of waste
 And salved the gaping sore,
 Till the puppy whined his gratitude
 And the flies came back no more.

Then we stopped again in a little while
 At a siding, where we lay
 And waited a bit for a freight to pass
 That was headed the other way.

We saw a pump near the section-house
 Which stood near the water-tank,
 And Red unloaded the puppy there
 And pumped for him while he drank.

Then he asked at the door of the section-house
 For a little bread or meat
 Or anything else the cook could spare
 For the hungry pup to eat.

And the woman told Red she had some kids.
 That one was a little boy,
 And she was sure, when he waked from sleep,
 He'd welcome the pup with joy.

Then the freight, with a jerk, began to move,
 So Red, with a leap, swung on.
 But the pup looked up from his plate of scraps
 And saw that his friend was gone.

He left the food and, yelping, ran
 Down the path that Red had come.
 He didn't seem to know that Red
 Was a hard-boiled egg and a bum.

He fell behind but he wouldn't quit
 As the rolling freight gained speed.
 A faint bark told of his canine hope
 That his friend would hear and heed.

Yes, hear he did, and heed he did -
 That red-headed, hard-boiled egg -
 He reached for an iron ladder-rung
 With a long, ungainly leg.

We called him a fool, but he only grinned
 And kept on climbing down.
 We told him about the desert heat
 And the twenty long miles to town.

But he hit the grit, with a sheepish grin,
 And turned to meet the pup
 And we saw him stoop and pat its head
 When the panting dog caught up.

The last that we saw of the hard-boiled egg
 As the freight rolled on its way
 He was trudging along by the side the pup
 In the heat of the desert day.

Now the judge said red was a hard-boiled egg,
 And mebbly he was - but, hell!
 I ain't pronouncing a verdict on eggs
 Until I see under the shell.

While traveling in Maine last summer, Tom "Moses" Droz, L.M. #13 discovered a little book in an antique store called *Railroad Stories*, dated July 1935. The cover caught Tom's attention because he collects hobo nickels and is interested in general hobo memorabilia. The book is written by Steven Anderson.

Bo Tales Publishing Schedule

<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Submitting Articles</u>
Oct/Nov/Dec	November 30, 1999
Jan/Feb/March	February 28, 2000
April/May/June	April 30, 2000
July/Aug/Sept	June 30, 2000
Oct/Nov/Dec	September 30, 2000

The publishing schedule is based on getting sufficient article for publication. Please submit your articles as soon as you can to:

Roman Luzecky
 5 Melody Lane
 Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-1526

Or via e-mail to
Rluzecky@aol.com

Thanks.

Carving Tools...

continued from page 1

The tools were hastily inspected and many questions arose from the hasty inspection. Bill Fivaz photographed the tools for me, and the tools were then sent to Ron, a friend of mine with whom I had worked for many years. He is now a retired metallurgist, but is still very active.

Upon receiving the tools, Ron made a very important determination. Some of the tools had apparently been made from some cutter blades that were the cutters used in a tool called a *TRUMPF BEVELLER*. The beveller is a hand held machine that is used to bevel the edges of steel for welding purposes (see photograph below). Ron said that *TRUMPF* was or is a tool manufacturing company in Germany. Both Ron and I tried very hard to get information from various tool companies and welding companies in the U.S. about the machine, and possibly an address of that company, but neither of us had any luck.

Friends of mine in Darmstadt, Germany were coming to visit us for two weeks in May and June of this year. I sent them a rough sketch sent to me by Ron, descriptions of the tool, and the tool name. They received the information near the middle of May and instantly started trying to locate the company for me. One day before they left Germany to visit us they received an envelope from Barbara Maier of the *TRUMPE GmbH + Co.* which is located in Ditzingen, Germany. The package contained several booklets and information about one of their branches in Connecticut. Ms. Maier gave me the name of the Marketing Director (Mr. Gary Sheridan) in the U.S. office, his address and his phone number.

Mr. Gary Sheridan of the Farmington, CT branch was very cooperative and supplied me with yet another tool booklet, two of the modern cutters used in the new bevellers, and permission to use information from the booklets in *BO TALES*. Copies of *THE HOBO NICKEL* book by Joyce Ann Romines were sent to Ms. Maier and Mr. Sheridan so they can see some work which was probably done with *TRUMPE* tools.

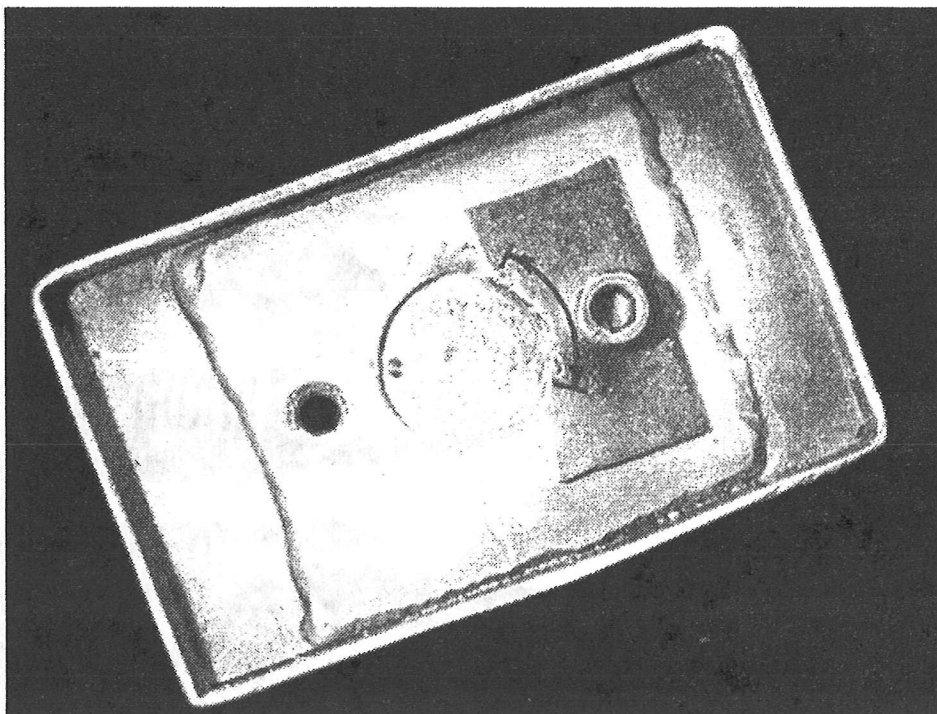
Following is just a little information on the *TRUMPF* machine manufacturing company:

Trumpf GmbH + Co. is 75 years old. The division in Connecticut is about 50 years old. If the tools used to make the Hobo Artist's chisels came from the CT division, they could be in the vicinity of 50 years old. If they came from tools manufactured in Germany, they would probably be between 50 and 75 years old. Either way, the age of the cutter blades goes

along with the cameos carved by "Bo" 1950-1957. The following photographs will show some differences between the more modern cutters and the older cutters that were used to make the artist's tools.

Once the tools had been identified, as being from a probable source and an accurate age was determined, numerous photographs of "Bo's" 1950's cameo carvings were examined. Even though none of the actual coins were available for inspection, it was fairly positive that these tools are the ones used by "Bo" to make many (if not all) of the cameo carvings. There are some markings on the coin holder, which indicate that these tools may have been used by "Bo" even after his hand injury. There are at least six marks on the "hold down" that are positively from a steel letter punch "C". If this holder was used by "Bo" after his hand injury, it may have also

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COIN HOLDER WITH "C"
PUNCH MARKS ON HOLD DOWN

Carving Tools...

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been the tool that he was using when he received his injury.

The photograph on cover shows 19 different tools which were in the set. The tools were not only chisels, but included other items such as a *pencil eraser* (C on photo) probably used to smooth or dress the surfaces after carving, *toothbrush* (A) probably used with abrasive materials such as baking soda, fine sand, etc. for dressing surfaces, one *wire toothbrush* (A) & one *small rotary wire brush* (A) that were probably used to dress surfaces (especially after the hand injury), *three whet stones* (B) which were probably used for sharpening the tools, one *allen key or wrench* (F) that was part of the coin holder, six *small file tools* (D, #1, #2, #3, #4 & #9) (five were types of chisels and "D" was just a file), and four major chisels (#5, #6, #7 & #8) made

from the *TRUMPF* cutters.

The next composite photograph shows two sides of chisel #5 (removed from handle) next to two of the modern cutters used with the *TRUMPF BEVELLER* and a new model *TRUMPF BEVELLER*.

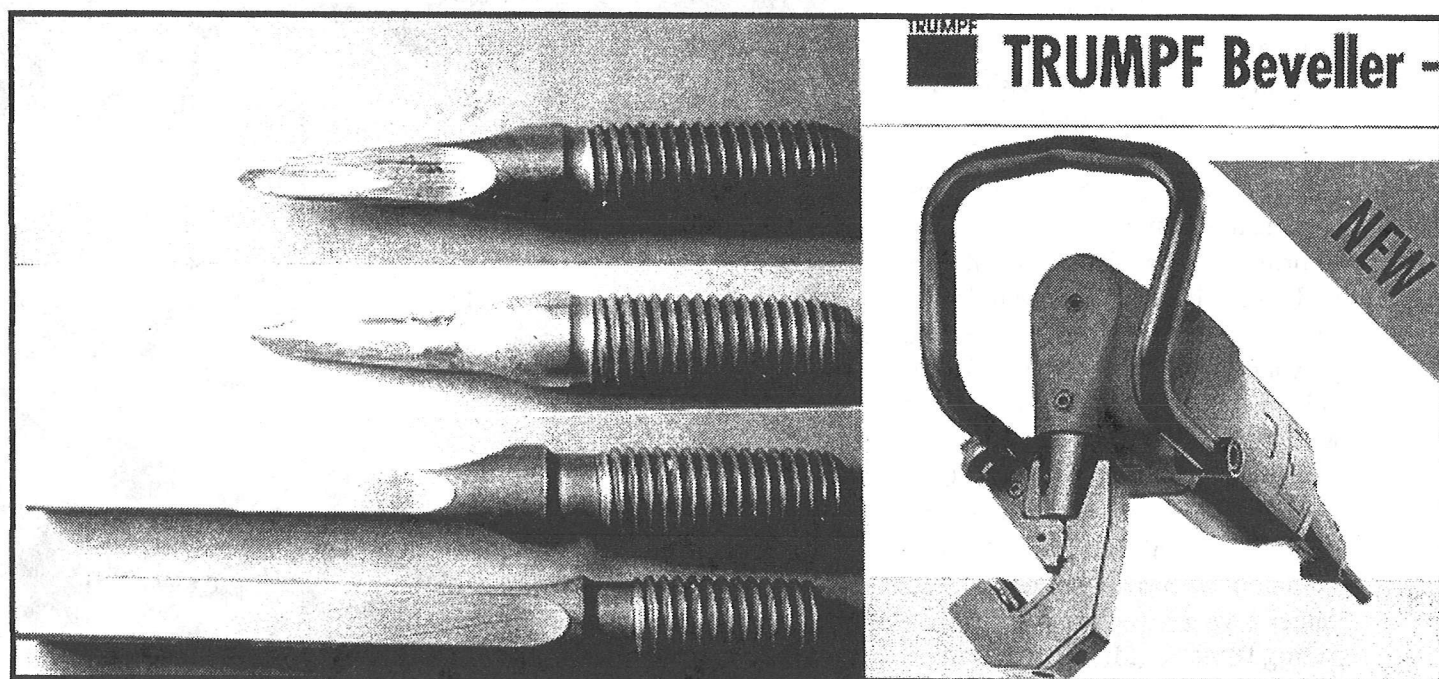
Of the five chisels (#1, #2, #3, #4 & #9) made from files, #9 may have been the only one used to any degree and the others were possibly experimental or very special tools. The handle of #9 shows considerable discoloration (probably oil from the hands) and the cutting edge appears to have been sharpened many times by hand and possibly a pair of bad eyes.

Numerous facets on #9 indicate bad eyesight. "Bo's" bad eyesight was mentioned on several occasions during discussions with "WC."

This set of tools belongs to OHNS

member Harry Carskadon of California and to me, this set of tools is possibly the most important find and study of my almost 20 years of studying hobo nickel artistry. In my opinion, these tools are possibly nearly priceless.

This set of tools apparently disproves one statement made to me by Willard "WC" Chisolm about "Bo's" tools. "WC" stated that the reason "Bo" hurt his hand was because of the design of the coin holder, and a new holder was made with walls surrounding the holder. Close inspection of the coin holder on page 20 in *The Hobo Nickel* (HBN #2) indicates that both holders were basically the same except for the holder shown on page 20 has an adapter for magnification. It was determined several years after meeting "WC" that it was not uncommon for him to stretch his blanket.



CHIEF #5 WITH THE *TRUMPF BEVELLER*

Obituary

Irving Stevens

The first thing you should know about hobos, Irving Stevens would say, is that they are not tramps. If you are a tramp you are content to live by begging, with perhaps a bit of stealing to help things along. Hobos are wandering workers, prepared to go anywhere in search of a job, and when that job runs out to move on to somewhere else more promising. Being a hobo, self-sufficient, despising welfare, is thus acceptably American, and probably more than that.

When Mr. Stevens was elected king of the hobos at the hobos' convention in Iowa in 1988 he became nationally famous. His homely wisdom dispensed on television programmes formed the subject of numerous newspaper articles extolling the merits of the hobo philosophy. Perhaps only a country as rich and secure as America could get irrepressibly sentimental about what is, in essence, casual labour. If there are hobos in Japan, they keep quiet about it. In Europe, the remaining gypsies have largely lost what romance they had and are mostly regarded as a nuisance.

American hobos, though, are associated with two powerful sources of myth: freight trains and cowboys. The great ranches of the west were a reliable source of seasonal work, either herding cattle or, less glamorously, doing farm work: hobo is probably a corruption of "hoe boy". Some hobos carried their personal hoes from job to job, like old-time shepherds with their crooks.

The railroads got you there. Many

hobos were known by names derived from their prowess at riding the rails. Steamtrain Maury and Choo-Choo Johnson were two of the most famous. Mr. Stevens already had a nickname, Fishbones. "Everyone called him that, he was so thin," his sister recalled this week. "You could see his bones through his skin." It wasn't so much the romance that sent Fishbones in his early 20s on his travels from his home in Maine. He was simply poor and hungry and America was in depression. The story-telling came later.

His secret formula

Irving Stevens wrote two books about his experiences, "Dear Fishbones" and "Hoboing in the 1930s". His stories have charm, and usually end with a moral point. Kind reviewers have said that they are a bit like Aesop's fables. But distance may have lent enchantment to what must have been a life of hardship. Other hobos who have put their memories into words tell of the "bulls", the railway police who would beat up the boxcar riders, or shoot them; and of life in the "jungle", the name given to a community of hobos who had pooled their resources.

Mr. Stevens was most famous for inventing a fly repellent that he refined, and seemingly perfected, over many years. It smelt abominably, but it kept the biting things away. "Well, I thought, if the stuff works so well, I can probably sell it." Mr. Stevens enhanced his American credentials by becoming an entrepreneur, if in a



Irving Stevens, America's king of the hobos, died May 4th, aged 88

small way. Irving's Fly Dope, bought by grateful fishermen and campers, provided Mr. Stevens with a regular income in his later life, when he had given up hoboing. He kept the formula as secret as Coca-Cola's.

The second world war (in which Mr. Stevens served in the air force) ended America's Great Depression, and ended the need to look far and wide for work. There was plenty nearer home. Mr. Stevens settled down, got married and had six children. There were now fewer hobos trailing across America but the breed was not extinct. There was still casual work to be had, the amount influenced by the booms and busts of the American economy.

Even now, with the economy roaring ahead and seemingly unstoppable, some hobos still feel a need to roam. "Hoboing gives you an absolute peace and freedom," recalled one addict. "There's nothing better than riding the rails in a clean boxcar and watching the world go by." This idyl-

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Irving Stevens...

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lic picture has helped to give birth to a new type of American hobo: young, often well-educated but not poor, not in need of work, unlikely to carry a hoe, and only a phone call away from anxious, supportive parents. The *Hobo Times* is full of fatherly advice to the innocent: don't travel alone; keep a supply of one dollar bills handy so you are not seen changing a big one; best to light a fire only in the daytime because at night it might attract unwelcome strangers; remember that there are serial murderers roaming the "high iron".

The railway companies have put up posters aimed to deter hobos and others from riding freight trains. In 1997, 529 people died as a result of trespassing on the railways. Even experienced rail-riders find it difficult to get aboard modern trains driven by diesel engines which gather speed more rapidly than the steam trains of the old days.

The history of hoboing, ancient and modern, has become a respectable academic discipline. As his fame grew, Mr. Stevens saw himself as the head of American hobos' first family. In 1993 he crowned one of his daughters, Connie Hall, queen of the hobos. They are together in our picture. More than 30,000 people watched the ceremony. Yes, Mr. Stevens said, there were female hobos, like Boxcar Bertha of Iowa, who died about five years ago. They were treated as equals by the men and never harmed. Irving Stevens thought they might be called early feminists. But that's another story.

This article appeared in *THE ECONOMIST* MAY 15TH 1999 and submitted by OHNS member Len M. Buth.

A Glossary of Hobo Terms Part II - (L through Z)

(Compliments of Fran DeLorenzo - "The Hobo Minstrel")

Lay-out - Gear for cooking and smoking opium.

Library bird - Unemployed person who uses libraries for shelter

Lighthouse - One who can recognize plain clothes cops on sight.

Line - The underworld.

Lizzie moocher - Tramp who panhandles food and gas in a car.

Lousy Anna - Louisiana.

Lump - Hand-out. Money gotten by begging.

Main stem - Main street of a city or neighborhood.

Making a raffle - Begging money.

Makins - Bull Durham or other rolling tobacco.

Manifest - A fast, through freight train. Nonstop.

Mark - Hobo sign. Person who can be conned for food or money.

Meg - Penney.

Milk and Honey - Railroads through Mormon territory in Utah. Mormons were usually generous to Hoboes.

Minister's face - Pig's head served in cheap restaurants.

Mission stiff - One who makes a practice of getting "Saved" for free flops and food.

Moll buzzer - One who specializes in begging from women.

Moniker - Nickname.

Monika - Moniker.

Mongee - Food.

Mooch - Beg. Also, to walk along.

Mop Mary -

Scrubwoman.

Mop stick -

Barfly in a cheap saloon.

Mule - Raw corn whiskey.

Mulligan - A stew of whatever is available.

Munies - Municipal lodging houses.

Mush faker - Umbrella repairer.

Mush fakir - Mush faker.

Mush talk - Flattery.

Navy - Cigar butt.

Nickle flop - All night movie house.

Obie - Post office.

On the Drag - On the road.

On the fly - While the train is moving.

On the Fritz - Broke down. Bad condition

On the Hog - No Money.

On the plush - Well off. Able to afford the best.

On the pork - On the hog.

Packing mustard - Carrying a hod.

Packing the banner -

Walking the streets.

Panhandling - Begging on the streets.

Earl diver - Dishwasher. man - Peterman.

reepers - Eyes.

Peterman - Safe blower.

Peddler - Slow or local freight train.

Pennsy - Coal car.

Pill roller - Doctor.

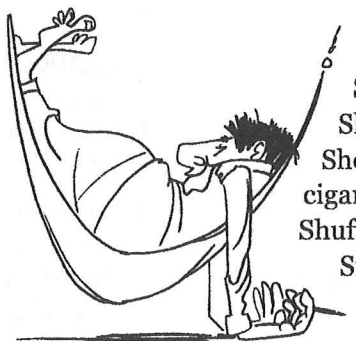


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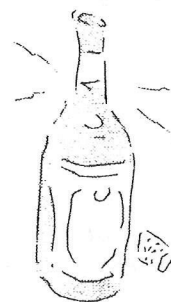
Hobo Glossary...

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Pipe - To mooch or beg.
Piping the stem - Begging on the streets.
Pling - Beg.
Plinging - Walk fast.
Plow jockey - Farmer.
Plush - Seat covering in the better passenger coaches.
Pogey - Almshouse. Workhouse.
Pogie - Pogey.
Poke - Wallet or purse.
Pokeout - Handout.
Poodle - Town Marshal.
Possum belly - Riding under a passenger coach.
Pot Wolloper - Person washing pots and pans.
Pound the ear - Sleep.
Pull - Leave.
Preshin - A punk.
Preshun - Pershin.
Punk - A kid Hobo. Bread.
Inferior. A young boy who travels with a jocker.
Push - A road gang.
Q - Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. San Quentin Prison.
Rare - A drink.
Rattler - Freight train.
Red ball - A fast train.
Red eye - Cheap whiskey.
Reefer - Refrigerator car.
Reuben - Small town inhabitant.
Rods - Iron rod between the cross section and the axle of passenger coaches.



Rot gut - Bad whiskey.
Rubberglue - Plainclothes cop.
Saddle blankets - Hot cakes.
Sally - Salvation Army.
Sally Ann - Sally.
Salve - Bribe. Butter up.
Sand - Sugar.
Sawbones - Doctor.
Scab - Non union worker.
Scatter - A speakeasy.
Scenery bum - A young tramp on the move for pleasure.
Scissorbill - An ignorant person.
One who doesn't believe in joining labor unions.
Scoffing - Eating.
Set down - Meal served indoors at a table.
Sewer hog - Ditch digger.
Shack - Brakeman.
Shack fever - Tired, sleepy, dopey feeling.
Shark - Employment agent.
Shine - Black person.
Shive - Razor.
Shooting snipes - Picking up cigar or cigarette butts.
Shuffler - Jobless worker.
Side-door pullman - Boxcar.
Sinker - A doughnut.
Sit down - Set down.
Skating on the uppers - Dead broke. So poor you can't have soles put on your shoes so all you have is the uppers.
Skinner - Mule driver.
Skipper - The conductor.
Skuds - Lots, plenty.
Sky pilot - Mission—house minister.
Slave market - Employment agency.
Slides - Shoes.
Slough - Strike shove or handle



roughly. (rhymes with now)
Slum - Slum-gullion.
Slum-gullion - Stew.
Smoke wagon - Pistol.
Snake - Railroad switchman.
Sneaky Pete - Cheap wine.
Snipe - Cigar or cigarette butt on the ground.
Sniping - Stealing.
Snowball - Morphine.
Spear - To make a successful connection when begging or mooching.
Speck bum - A stew-bum or old floater.
Spiel - Line of talk.
Spike pitcher - A harvest field worker.
Splinter belly - Carpenter.
Stake - Money saved up for the future.
Stem - Street. Sometimes the railroad.
Stemming - Panhandling in cities.
Stew bum - Drunk. Broken down Hobo.
Stiff - Any class of Hobo. i.e., Harvest stiff, cattle stiff, alkee stiff, etc.
St. Looey - St. Louis.
Streamlined - Traveling with little gear.
Sugan - Bindle. Bed comforter.
Tallow pots - Railroad firemen.
Teapot - Locomotive.
Throw - Spend freely.
Throw the feet - Beg.



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Letter to the Editor

Aug. 2, 1999

Dear Editor:

Thanks to the generosity of the OHNS, I recently had a memorable experience. I received a scholarship to the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar which was held in Colorado Springs, CO. during the week of July 10-16, 1999.

The Summer Seminar offers 20+ courses and I selected the one entitled, "Numismatic Treasures of Colorado" taught by ANA interim executive director Ed Rochette, an expert on Colorado lore. He was assisted by Don Kagin, an authority on territorial gold. The class was limited to ten participants.

The class took daily field trips to places of numismatic significance

such as Denver, Cripple Creek, Victor and St. Elmo. We saw so much and did so much! At Victor, we had first-hand experience in the gold-mining process. What a process it is! When the class visited St. Elmo, a gold-mining town, we were able to put some of our knowledge to the test by panning for gold in Chalk Creek. We got to keep the pan and the gold flakes we diligently acquired. One will not become rich by engaging in this back-breaking endeavor, but one does walk away with "golden memories." The experiences of the week included meeting many luminaries in the numismatic field and enriched my personal development and increased my numismatic fund of knowledge.

Also, while you're in the area, why not visit some remarkable places such as: top of Pikes Peak (via Cog Railway); the many casinos of Cripple Creek; the Denver Mint;

Garden of the Gods; Royal Gorge; the Air Force Academy; and many more.

I would like to encourage the readership of **Bo Tales** to contribute articles to the newsletter. That's how I qualified for the selection process that awards these scholarships. Hopefully, you will be the next individual who will build "golden memories" at the next ANA Summer Seminar in the year 2000.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Mellema
Ocala, FL

Hobo Glossary...

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Throw the guts - To talk freely or too much.
Timber beast - Woodsman. Logger.
Timbers - One who sells pencils.
Tooting ringers - Ringing house doorbells.
Tops - The tops of railroad cars.
Town clown - Town policeman or constable.
Tramp - A vagrant who lives by begging and never works.
Trap - Mouth.
Trapeze artist - One who rides the rods.
Turkey - A canvas bag for carrying possessions.
Vag - All types of vagabonds:
Hoboes, Tramps Bums, etc.
Varnish - A passenger train.

Wart hog - Trainmaster.
Weary Willies - Hoboes.
Weeds - Jungle.
Whiteline - White mule.
White mule - Uncolored corn moonshine.
Willy - Goodwill industries of the Methodist Church.
Wingey - A one armed person
Wob - Wobbly.
Wobbly - Member of the IWW.
Woodhead - Lumberjack.
Yap - A hick, farmer or tenderfoot
Hobo. Mouth. Talk a lot.
Yeggmen - Itinerant criminal tramps. Especially burglars and safe crackers.
Yeggs - Yeggmen

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome the following new members:

NAME	State	No.
Ron Fields	IN	533
Melvin Chase	DE	534
Rick Montgomery	CO	535
Sandy Pinnell	CA	536
Lewis Yarbrough	AL	537
Marc Banks	CT	538
<i>Rec. by Dave Wilson</i>		
Charles Copenhaver	FL	539
Robert Johnson	PA	540
Arnold Vitali	NJ	541
Harry Waterson	CA	542
Ronald Smelser	IN	543
Owen Murphy	CT	544
Steven Elliott	IA	545
Richard Whitney	IL	546
Ron Gordon	FL	547
Thomas Carter	NC	548
Ken Shellaby	TX	549
Geraldine Diedrick		550

H OBO ODGEPODGE

by Stephen P. Alpert, OHNS LM-10

THE HOBO CONVENTIONS OF BRITT, IOWA

(The information, cartoons, and illustrations presented here are from issue #20 of Flophouse News, published in Tenafly, New Jersey, circa 1946 (it is undated). A couple of pages and articles were devoted to the upcoming hobo convention, the first after the suspension due to World War II.)

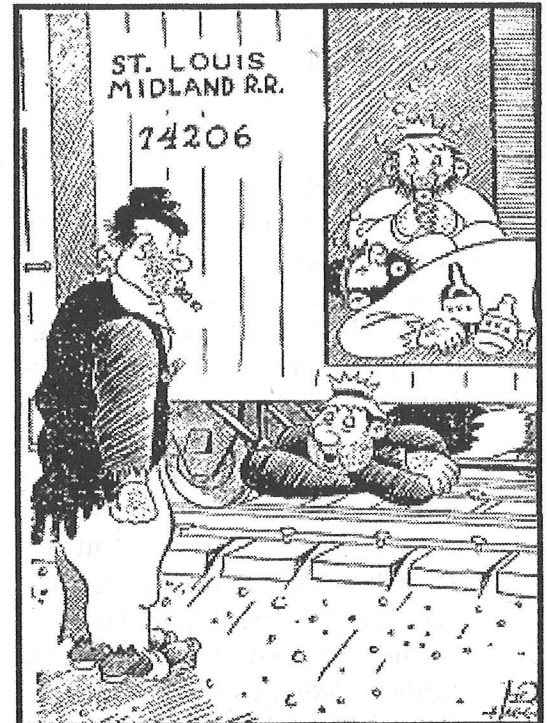
In 1900, citizens of Britt, Iowa, in order to promote their town, asked Tourists Union No. 63 to hold their 4th annual Hobo Convention at Britt. Officers Onion Cotton (of Danville, Ill.) and Grand Head Pipe Charles F.

Noe (of Sycamore, Ill.) were convinced to hold their annual convention in Britt, on August 22, 1900.

Festivities included a fife and drum corps dressed as hoboes playing the latest rag time tunes. There was a Hobo Headquarters as well as a Hobo Hindquarters office. Reporters from many Midwestern newspapers attended the event.

A barbecued ox was served free at noon. Speeches, races, and sporting events were held in the afternoon. An evening convention was held by a campfire at the fair grounds.

continued on page 12



"We're on our way to the Hobo National Convention - the road to hell is paved with good conventions."



"T'anks for dem crumbs, lady. Dey'll hold me till I get to the Hobo National Convention."

Hobo Hodgepodge...

continued from page 11

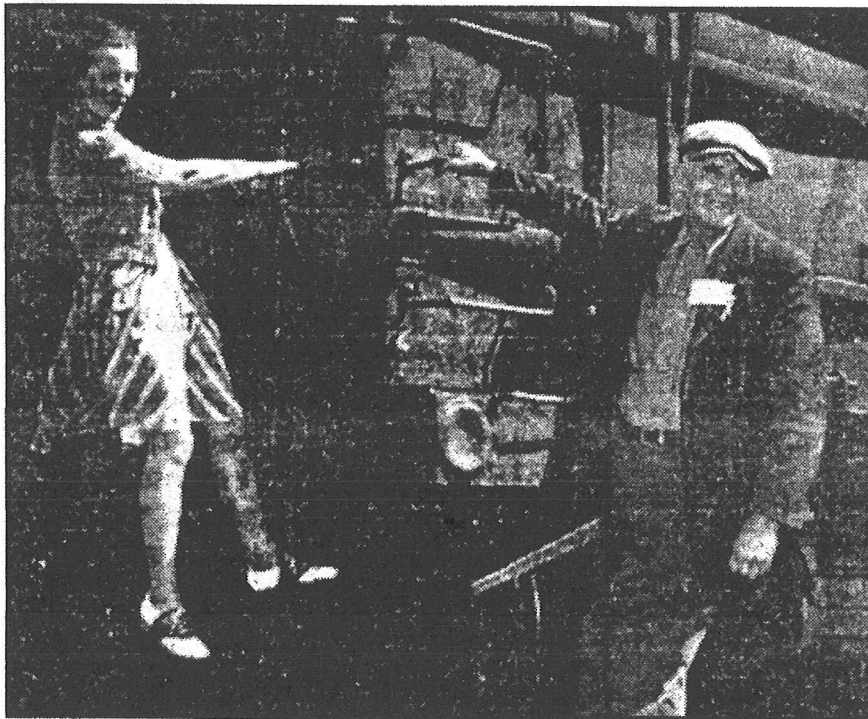
The next Hobo Convention at Britt was in 1933 on the anniversary of the 1900 event. Hairbreadth Harry was crowned King of the Hoboes. He was re-elected in 1934 and 1935. In 1936 Tom McDougall (Scoopshovel Scotty) was at the convention cooking soup, which was so good that he was elected King.

In 1937 Scoopshovel Scotty was incarcerated in Cedar Rapids and could not attend the Britt convention. Harry Beetison of Ashland, Nebr. was elected and crowned King David I.

The *Flophouse News* states that further conventions were suspended through World War II, but they published a photograph of a contender for King at the most recent event in 1940.

For the upcoming convention (1946?), the *Flophouse News* advocated Skeets Simmons for King of the Hoboes, and Poppy Ellen Pep as Queen of the Hoboes. "Sir" Skeets had been elected Supreme Knight at the 1938 Hobo Convention in Altoona, Pa.

Hopefully Bo Tales readers can continue the history of the Britt Hobo Conventions since World War II.



"Speedy" Bill Fallon, of Lawrence, Mass., candidate for Hobo King of 1940, showing hoboette how to hop a side-door pullman at the most recent Hobo Convention at Britt, Ia.



Lot #37/ K-090



Self portrait of "Bo"

First Authenticator: Gail Baker**Quality:** Average**Comments:**

This is the first in an eight coin series of self-portraits of Bo. This coin shows Bo at an early age. The portrait has a full head of hair, minimal facial hair, simple collar and typical altered profile with Bo-style "ski-nose." The coin is dark, especially in the carving lines.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes**Method:** carved & punched**Date of Coin:** 1913**Grade:** Fine**Mint mark:** P

Lot #38/ K-091



Self portrait of "Bo"

First Authenticator: Gail Baker**Quality:** Average**Comments:**

This is the second coin in a series of eight self-portraits of "Bo." This coin shows Bo at around 25 years. He has a full head of hair and full beard and mustache. The profile is altered to include the typical Bo "ski-nose." There is some evidence the hair has been done with a rotary tool.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes**Method:** carved**Date of Coin:** 1920**Grade:** Fine**Mint mark:** P

Lot #39/ K-092



Self portrait of "Bo"

First Authenticator: Gail Baker**Quality:** Average**Comments:**

This is the third in an eight coin series of self-portraits of "Bo" by Bo. This coin shows Bo in his twenties. The coin is dark in the carving lines. It shows a simple collar, nicely carved ear, full head of hair, beard and mustache and has an altered profile.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes**Method:** carved**Date of Coin:** 1936**Grade:** low grade**Mint mark:** D

Lot # 40 / K-093



Self portrait of "Bo"

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

This is the fourth in a series of eight self portraits of "Bo" by Bo. In this portrait, Bo appears to have very slightly less hair and it is not quite as full. The portrait depicts a full beard and mustache and altered profile. There is evidence that the hair was done with a rotary tool.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes **Method:** carved

Date of Coin: 1913 **Grade:** low grade **Mint mark:** P

Lot # 41 K-094



Self portrait of "Bo"

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

This is the fifth coins in a series of eight self portraits of "Bo" by Bo. In this portrait "Bo" has begun to bald. He has a full beard and mustache and altered profile. There is a simple notched collar and nice ear.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes **Method:** carved

Date of Coin: 1937 **Grade:** low grade **Mint mark:** P

Lot # 42 K-095



Self portrait of an older "Bo"

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

This is the sixth in a series of eight self portraits of "Bo" by Bo. In this portrait, Bo has aged quite a bit and is very bald. He still has a full beard and mustache. The collar is notched and the profile as altered to reflect the Bo "ski-nose." The hair shows evidence of being done with a rotary tool.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes **Method:** carved

Date of Coin: 1936 **Grade:** low grade **Mint mark:** S

Lot # 43 / K-096



Self portrait of an older "Bo"

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

This is the seventh coin in a series of eight self-portraits of "Bo" by Bo. In this profile, Bo is almost completely bald. He has a full beard and mustache. There is evidence the hair was done with a rotary tool. There is a simple collar (no notch) and altered nose. Nice ear.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1935 Grade: low grade Mint mark: S

Lot # 44 / K-097



Self portrait of "Bo"

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Below Average

Comments:

This coin is the last in an eight coin series of self-portraits of Bo. This coin is completely punched and depicts a much older Bo. It reads: This is GH 11-28-80. The coin appears to have been treated with acid or buffed.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes Method: punched

Date of Coin: 1935 Grade: Fine Mint mark: D

Lot # 45 / K-098



Bearded man with derby hat and carved date

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

This coin is unusual in that the date "1937" has been carved over the original date. The hair, beard and mustache have been done with a curved chisel which, according to some researchers, could indicate the coin was carved by "Bert." The profile has been altered, a collar added along with a simple (but nicely done) ear. Nice coin.

Artist: Bertram Weigand (?) Method: carved & punched

Date of Coin: unknown Grade: Fine Mint mark: P

Lot # 46 K-099



Rabbi

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

Coin has been treated and is quite dark. It shows a man with a straight beard wearing a small cap. Simple collar, very slightly altered profile.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1933

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: D

Lot # 47 K-100



Jockey

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

Man with wavy hair, beard & mustache wearing a cap. The coin is dark. The profile has been altered producing a "ski-nose." Simple ear.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1935

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: P

Lot # 48 K-101



Monique's Beau

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

Finely carved profile of a man with a derby hat with a nice band, decoration and feather. He is wearing a striped tie. Coin appears to have been buffed before it was carved. Nice.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1926

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: P

Lot # 49

K-102



Ralph

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

Carved portrait of man with full beard, mustache and wearing a base ball cap. The coin is quite dark.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1926

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: P

Lot # 50

K-103



Bo's Brother

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

Coin has been fully carved of a man smoking a cigarette, wearing a helmet with a chin strap. He has a full beard and slightly wavy hair. The date "1919" is carved above the date of the coin. Subject has a high collar, ear and slightly altered profile. Coin is interesting because of the unusual additional devices, although these are normally found on coins identified as "Bo's Brother."

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1936

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: P

Lot # 51

K-104



Clown

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average (high)

Comments:

Bald clown face with high fancy collar and cap forward on head. This coin has been treated with a chemical and is quite dark. Unusual subject on a hobo nickel, but a favorite of "Bo."

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1929

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: D

Lot # 52 / K-105



Clown

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

This carved, punched and buffed coin of a clown has some fringe hair, a small rounded hat far back on the head and a fancy punched collar. The clown is smiling and has a turned up nose and carved ear.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved & punched

Date of Coin: 1935

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: P

Lot # 53 / K-106



Indian

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

The Indian is wearing a similar hat to the one, according to legend, attributed to "Marci," "Monique's" boyfriend. It has a fancy band and feather.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

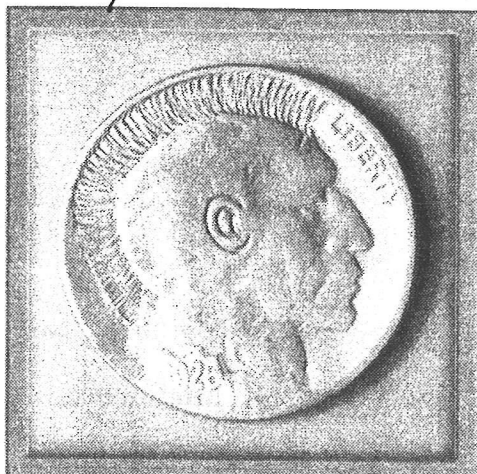
Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1936

Grade: VF

Mint mark: P

Lot # 54 / K-107



Mohawk Indian

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

The Indian has had all of his hair removed and a mohawk hairstyle has been added, probably with a rotary tool. An ear has also been added.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

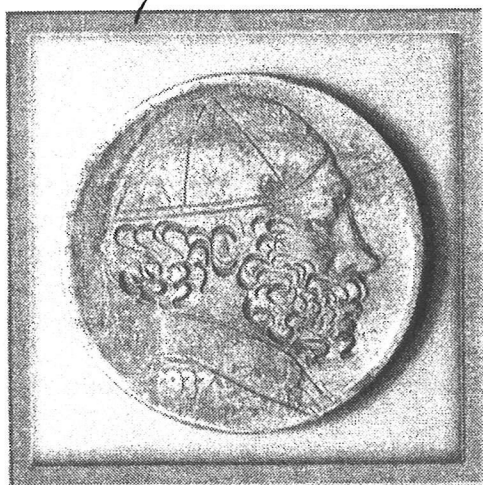
Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1926

Grade: Fine

Mint mark: P

Lot # 55 / K-108



Man with curly beard and baseball cap

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Below Average

Comments:

This chemically treated, punched coin is much more attractive than it sounds and has the style attributed to "Bo." The beard and hair were punched with a curved chisel, the profile has been altered and a baseball cap drawn on. The coin is quite dark.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved & punched

Date of Coin: 1937

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: D

Lot # 56 / K-109



Angry Woman

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

This darkened, punched coin looks, to me, like an unhappy gal with long curly hair and a knit cap on her head. The profile has been altered, changing the nose.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: punched

Date of Coin: 1913

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: D

Lot # 57 / K-110



Santa

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Below Average

Comments:

This below average portrait of Santa was done with a rotary tool and it looks like his nose lost the battle with the machine. Nevertheless, it has real charm with a favorite subject.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: machined

Date of Coin: 1936

Grade: VF

Mint mark: S

Lot # 58 / K-111



Man wearing cap

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Below Average

Comments:

This coin has been punched, machined and acid treated. It shows a man with a curly beard and hair wearing what might be a railroad cap. He has a notched collar and some minor changes have been made to the profile.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: machined

Date of Coin: 1925

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: P

Lot # 59 K-112



Clown

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average (low)

Comments:

Mostly punched portrait of a clown with big nose, fancy high collar, curly hair, simple ear, and small hat. The coin is darkly toned. The clown portraits are especially popular with collectors.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: punched

Date of Coin: 1929

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: D

Lot # 60 K-113



Bert

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

Portrait of a man with a full head of hair, beard and mustache. He has a straight nose which probably indicated it is "Bert." The date "1942" has been carved into the collar. The hair, beard and mustache all show squiggle lines in the carving which indicates to me this coin was done with an electric rotary tool.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1930

Grade: Fine

Mint mark: P

Lot # 61

K-114



Woman

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Superior

Comments:

This is a beautiful carving of a woman (Monique?) with long hair neatly parted and combed. The entire obverse has been altered except the date - which has been highlighted (area around carved away so date stands out). She has carved eye, brow, lips and pointed nose. Field has been scooped and smoothed leaving high rim.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1934

Grade: high grade

Mint mark: P

Lot # 62

K-115



Bearded man with derby hat

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Above Average (high)

Comments:

This is a very well carved man with neat beard, mustache and hair. He has a raised ear, collar and hat rim. The fields have been nicely finished and smoothed.

Artist: George Washington "Bo" Hughes

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1937

Grade: high grade

Mint mark: P

Lot # 63

K-116



Man with whiskers and derby hat

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

Fairly typical hobo nickel by an unknown artist. The initials "AT" have been carved behind the head, which may be the sig. of the artist. Profile altered to show ethnic nose, simple ear and collar.

Artist: unknown

Method: carved & punched

Date of Coin: 1919

Grade: low grade

Mint mark: P

Lot # 64 / K-117



Ethnic man with beard and derby hat

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

This is a great portrait of an ethnic man with huge nose, frown nostrils and eye. Nice collar and shirt that shows raised metal. The ear and hat brim are also raised. The beard and hair are punched. Nice original type coin.

Artist: unknown

Method: carved

Date of Coin: no date

Grade: XF

Mint mark: P

Lot # 65 K-118



Man with beard and small hat

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Average

Comments:

Interesting and quite different portrait. Small hat, rumpled collar, ear, whiskers, eyebrow and altered nose. This coin has a lot of character – done on an early Buffalo Nickel.

Artist: unknown

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1913

Grade: Fine

Mint mark: P

Lot # 66 K-119



Man with derby hat

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

This coin is full of character and interesting devices. The date "1927" has been carved over the date of the coin. The portrait shows a man with a hooked nose, whiskers, collar, ear and hat with band and bow.

Artist: unknown

Method: carved

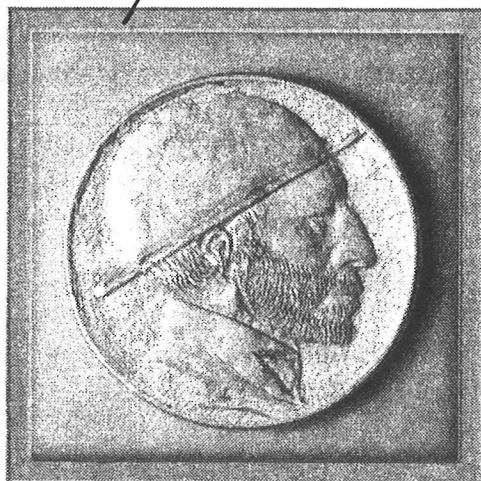
Date of Coin: no date

Grade: Fine

Mint mark: P

Lot # 67 /

K-120



Bearded man with derby hat

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Above Average

Comments:

This obverse has been fully worked except the nose and eye area. Full beard, mustache and hair have been punched with small curved chisel. High collar with lots of detail. Derby hat with simple rim. The field has been textured.

Artist: unknown

Method: carved & punched

Date of Coin: no date **Grade:** high grade **Mint mark:** P

Lot # 68 /

K-121



Bearded man with derby hat

First Authenticator: Gail Baker

Quality: Superior

Comments:

This coin has everything going for it! It was done on a high-grade 1913 T-1 of a man with tons of character. He has a straight (punched) beard, carved collar and lapel, bump on nose and temple, squint line at eye, eyebrow, and tufts of hair peeking out from under the detailed hat.

Artist: unknown

Method: carved

Date of Coin: 1913 **Grade:** high grade **Mint mark:** P

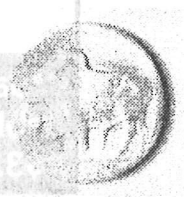
Lot # 69 /

JANUARY 2000 - AUCTION SNEAK PREVIEW

We wanted to show some additional photos of 8 auction lots that arrived too late to include the write-ups, but as you can tell, just about every one of them rated "Superior". These lots were submitted by master engraver and member Ron Landis, with the first six being his incredible handiwork and the last two being carved by his employee Sonny Carpenter. Folks, these are all carved pieces, and I think you'll agree that they are some of the nicest that have gone under the hammer at an OHNS auction. I've seen these upclose-and-personal, and I gotta tell you, they are absolutely magnificent! You've gotta get to the auction to see (and bid on) these in person!



Gallery Mint Tokens



Gail says she still has the following material ready to ship to any member who hasn't ordered yet. If you don't have both of Del's books, get 'em! Also, the hobo tokens by Ron Landis are **great additions to your collection... take advantage of their availability now and get a complete set.**

*Del Romines' first Hobo Nickel Book	\$25.00
*Del Romines' second Hobo Nickel Book	25.00
*OHNS T-shirt with Hobo 5 on front (Large or Med.)	10.00
*OHNS T-shirt with Hobo 5 on front & back (Diff.) (Lg.)	15.00
*1992 Hobo Token by Ron Landis (Hobo obv/Buff. Rev)	10.00
*1993 Hobo Token by Ron Landis (Clown/Buffalo)	10.00
*1994 Hobo Token by Ron Landis (Baseball Cap/Buffalo)	10.00
(1995 Tokens [Train] are sold out)	
1996 Hobo Token by Ron Landis (Pirate/Buffalo)	10.00
# one of these FREE with the order of one of Del's books	

Photos of the available tokens are shown here to entice you!

AVAILABLE HOBO TOKENS



1992



Common Reverse
on all tokens



1993



1994



1996

*Back issues of BO TALES and Auction catalogues with prices realized are also available to members - write Gail ("Bo-ette") to ask what is available. BO TALES issues are \$3.50 ea. and Auction Catalogues are \$4.00 ea.

1998 HOBO NICKEL TOKENS NOW AVAILABLE!!

We have just received the latest in the series of OHNS Tokens made for the club by Ron Landis, of The Gallery Mint.

As you can see, Ron has the OHNS mascot "Nick" on the obverse of the new token and the old locomotive reverse. NEAT!!

You may order immediately (\$10.00 each) from Gail "Bo-ette" Baker, P.O. Box 38669, Colorado Springs, CO 80937.

See elsewhere for tokens that are still available from previous years... Be sure your set is complete!





THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, INC.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

- ☐ Please enroll me as a member in the Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc. as indicated.
- ☐ Please renew my membership (member number _____) as indicated.
- ☐ 5 years @ \$40 ☐ 3 years @ \$25 ☐ 1 year @10
- ☐ Life @ \$250 ☐ Youth under 19 @ \$5 ☐ Associate @ \$5 (no mailings)

I am also enclosing a donation of _____ for the OHNS Scholarship program.

Name: _____ Moniker (Nickname): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I agree to abide by the Society's Code of Ethics.

Signature of Candidate _____

Sponsor's Name _____

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- Prices quoted are for camera ready display copy.
- Graphic layout and design @ \$25 per hour is available.
- Pictures or graphics are encouraged.
- Payment in full must be submitted with ads. Make checks payable to: Original Hobo Nickel Society.
- All ads must be related to Hobo Nickels or associated materials or subject matter.
- Dealers must adhere to our Code of Ethics.

Numismatic flyers can be inserted and mailed with Bo Tales for as little as \$150.

	Annual -4 Publications	Single Issue - Bo Tales	Single - Auction Catalogue
Full Page	\$225.00	\$100.00	\$125.00
Full Page w/Cover	\$250.00	XX	XX
Half Page Ad	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
Quarter Page Ad	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
Inside Cover	XX	XX	\$175.00



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HOBO NICKEL AUTHENTICATION SUBMISSION FORM

Submissions will be reviewed by at least two authenticators who will give independent opinions on the originality, type, method(s), artist, condition and quality of the carving. Each coin will be photographed and described. Carvings considered to be original (not modern) will be registered and numbered. **Please submit one form with each coin to one of the following authenticators:**

Bill Fivaz
P.O. Box 888660
Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660

Owner's Name: _____ OHNS Membership # _____

Address _____

Owner's value of coin (**this information is necessary for insurance**): \$ _____

Members: \$15.00 per coin* **or** ten or more coins - \$12.50 per coin* **Non-Members:** \$25.00 per coin*

*Includes postage and insurance up to \$100.00. *If you desire additional insurance, indicate the amount and include the additional cost.*

I understand that the opinions rendered are strictly that, opinions, and are not a guarantee that the item is genuine. It is however, the best considered judgement by qualified specialists in the area, but others may reach different conclusions.

☐ I authorize OHNS to use a photograph of this coin. ☐ I authorize OHNS to use my name (not address).

Signature of Submitter

Date

Please make all checks payable to:
Original Hobo Nickel Society

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Town Crier and Keeper of the Campfire	Ray "Erie" Flanigan
Head Scribbler	Gail "Bo-ette" Baker
Trouble Maker.....	Chuck "Buddha" Irwin
Bean Counter	Dallas "Colonel" Shaw
Night Watch	James "Dictator" Taylor
	J.T. "Bubba" Stanton
	Don "Sport" Farnsworth
Started-It-All	Del "Slickrock" Romines
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	Don "Sport" Farnsworth
	Dave "Willy" Wilson
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